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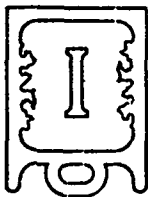
RAISING LIVE STOCK IN MANITOBA

Province with ideal conditions for Raising
Cattle, Sheep and Hogs. Splendid
climate, rich pastures and cheap
finishing feed. Best market
in the world within
the province



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IN the early days of the settlement of Manitoba, live stock was considered the mainstay of agriculture, for some little time was necessary to enable the settlers to discover the possibilities of soil and climate for the production of wheat. Many of the early pioneers brought with them a foundation stock, and in not a few of the best studs and herds of to-day can be traced a descent from these early importations. Needless to say, the stock imported from the older provinces thrived wonderfully on the nutritious prairie grasses, which for many generations had sustained vast herds of buffalo. The pioneer delights to recall the big steers he produced when the herds fed on the short sweet up-land pastures or revelled belly-deep in vetches and wild pea-vine. An opening having been made for the export of wheat by the completion of the railroad between the prairies and the lake ports, the wealth-producing possibilities of grain growing were quickly recognized. It happened that the open prairie was easily brought under cultivation. No expensive equipment was required, and easy credit system prevailed, wonderful returns were obtained, and settlement rapidly increased. As a result the live stock interests were neglected, and wheat became the one thing considered worthy of attention.

Many a traveller has marvelled at the myriad beacon fires that illuminate the autumn sky from the far-reaching stubble fields, where the straw piles are burned as soon as the threshers have completed their task. This improvident waste, coupled with careless methods encouraging the introduction and spread of weeds, is causing the pendulum to swing slowly back again. In order to improve the mechanical condition of the soil, to restore exhausted fertility, and to control noxious weeds, grasses and clovers are being introduced, farms are being fenced and the rearing of live stock is again receiving serious attention.

The following figures, taken from Government statistics, will give some idea of the growth of the live-stock industry:—

Year	Horses	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
1899	102,655	220,248	33,092	66,011
1900	118,629	237,560	25,813	77,912
1901	141,080	263,168	22,960	94,680
1902	146,591	282,343	20,518	95,598
1903	161,250	310,577	22,569	105,157
1904	143,386	306,943	18,228	118,986
1905	157,724	319,290	18,508	104,113
1906	164,444	363,202	16,606	120,838
1907	173,212	463,862	14,442	118,243
1908	169,905	415,483	16,924	120,364
1909	189,132	372,520	17,922	155,541
1910	232,725	397,261	32,223	176,212

These figures show a general increase of late, but not such an increase as is warranted by the conditions. With an abundance of cheap land, wild hay to be had for the cutting, and the extreme ease with which all sorts of fodder and roots for cattle, sheep and hogs can be raised, the live stock industry should be a far bigger thing in Manitoba than it is. There is much money to be made by engaging in this line of agricultural enterprise and the real necessity of better farming, combined with the demands of a market that grows faster than its supply, by far, is having an excellent effect upon the live stock situation in Manitoba.

There is a sharp demand for every sort of domestic animal in the West. In spite of the fact that automobiles and farm tractors of all sorts are freely used throughout the West, the call for good horses is always ahead of the supply, and many horses are brought in from Eastern Canada and the United States that ought to be raised in the province where the market for them is. This is not to say that there are no horses raised in Manitoba; on the contrary, the industry is a thriving one and produces splendid results as far as it is pursued. Chiefly, horse raising in Manitoba tends to the production of heavy horses and the Clydesdales, Shires, and Percherons are the breeds that find most favor, although there are a good many smaller horses raised through crossing the lighter native stock with imported stallions. The tendency is, however, to raise pure-bred stock and of the big breeds, as these horses are not only sure to find good sale among the farmers but are also much in demand for heavy teams in the cities. The heavy teaming business in Winnipeg is fitted out with this type of horse, and the size and beauty of the horses of Winnipeg is remarked by every observing person who sees these splendid animals. Winnipeg carriage and trotting horses are also noted for their high class, but these are almost entirely brought in from outside points. Nevertheless, Manitoba is a province well suited to the breeding of horses, and there is sale for all the good stock that can be produced.

Cows and cattle are even more in demand than horses. There is a known shortage of beef stock all over the continent of North America and an insatiable demand from overseas. The shortage in dairy products is, if anything, more pronounced than the meat deficit; taken together, they constitute an argument for cattle raising that cannot be answered except by cattle raising. Added to the demand for more cattle and more butter, cream, cheese and milk, the fact is being forced home to the farmer that he must have cattle for the land's sake, and thus the case for more cattle, sheep and hogs on the farm is made out completely.

There is no place where these animals are easier to raise than in the province of Manitoba. The quality of the native grasses is such that cattle turned out to pasture in the spring in poor condition, are soon fat and sleek without any other feed than that which they find for themselves. In all of the wooded districts of the province, cattle may be kept out of doors all winter without endangering life or health, but this is not the best plan for getting good results. Shelters are easily had, and there are thousands of tons of straw burned every year that would make good winter fodder for beef cattle with the smallest amount of care. Roots grow with almost no care at all, and it has been proved that barley fed to cattle and hogs brings more money than it does when sold as grain, and there is the added profit of fertilization of the land by having cattle and pigs.

Manitoba cattle shows prove the quality of the soil of the province for cattle raising. At these shows are seen cattle so fat that they are monstrous in size and shape. The breeds that are most used for beef are the Shorthorns, Herefords and Aberdeen Angus, and all do excellently well in this province. There are still many large areas where the wild vetch and pea-vines grow luxuriantly, and these districts are generally dotted with stretches of meadow where hay for winter feed may be cut and stacked until called for. Such districts are generally companion pieces to the free-land sections of the province and the combination makes for cheap production of beef, pork and mutton. Thus

far, however, the production is far behind the demand and there are splendid openings for men who will take up the live stock branches of farming with proper interest and enthusiasm.

Sheep raising presents conditions that are especially attractive. The dry air and preponderance of clear weather that mark the climate of Manitoba are highly favorable to sheep raising, and the animals do, as a matter of fact, remarkably well in the province. In the early days, there were too many coyotes for full profits from the sheep, and there are still more of the pestiferous animals than are really needed by the sheep raisers. As the province fills up, all such pests are reduced in number, and the dangers which the sheep raiser must contend with in Manitoba are comparatively few nowadays. And the market for his products is as good as the world affords. Growing industries assure good prices for wool, and there is so great a shortage in the supply of lamb and mutton that these meats are brought in from the United States in considerable quantity for supplying the Winnipeg market. It is a fact, too, that lamb and mutton are brought from far-off New Zealand to the Canadian market, and that when there are thousands of acres of land entirely suitable for sheep raising here and a climate incomparably fine for the industry.

Pigs do exceptionally well, too. An ideal combination is a dairy herd for making cream for one of the many creameries of the province and as many hogs as may be kept going on the skim-milk. This valuable adjunct to hog raising, is easily supplemented with clover, alfalfa, and other green foods, and roots are raised, as stated, at the least possible outlay of money and labor. Barley makes a good finishing feed, and barley is a crop especially adapted to Manitoba soil and climate. In spite of these advantages, Manitoba does not raise enough pork for the local market, but depends for a considerable part of its supply upon the States and Eastern Canada.

All of this is because the farmers of the province have been so much given over to growing wheat that they have allowed the other—and ultimately more profitable—branches of farming to fall into disuse.

Early in the live-stock history of the province, active associations were organized, and through the agency of these, public interest has been stimulated in the important work of live-stock improvement. Valuable concessions in regard to freight rates for pure-bred stock have been obtained from railroad companies. Exhibition Associations have been induced to employ more efficient judges and to provide larger prizes and more adequate accommodation for live stock. Provincial auction sales of pure-bred stock have been inaugurated, and farmers have thus been enabled to select bulls for breeding purposes, from among the consignments of many breeders.

With the foundation thus laid for successful work, and with the pressing need for more farm stock becoming more apparent from day to day, the live-stock industry in Manitoba is getting to be a bigger factor of farming growth, and the near future will see great development along the lines indicated in this leaflet. A strong point in favor of raising more cattle, sheep and hogs in Manitoba lies in the fact that there are large abattoirs in Winnipeg, and that the great railroads are joining in a plan for union stock yards just outside the city. These advantages make Winnipeg the biggest live stock and dressed meat centre in Western Canada, and the best market for these goods as well for many other lines corollary to the raising of live stock as a business proposition.